

## CLAIMS

1. An aqueous fluid useful for the recovery of a liquid hydrocarbon from subterranean reservoirs, said aqueous fluid having a pH of greater than 7 and comprising:
  - 5 a) an aqueous media; and
  - b) a surfactant blend, said surfactant blend comprising at least one synthetic polyisobutylene surfactant.
2. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 wherein said surfactant blend comprises at least one second surfactant selected from the group consisting of sulfonate surfactants,  
10 alcohols, nonionic surfactants, and mixtures thereof.
3. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 wherein upon contacting said aqueous fluid and said liquid hydrocarbon, the interfacial tension between said aqueous fluid and said liquid hydrocarbon is about  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  dynes/cm to about 0.1 dynes/cm.
4. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 wherein upon contacting said liquid hydrocarbon  
15 with said aqueous fluid, the interfacial tension between said liquid hydrocarbon and said aqueous fluid is about  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  to about 0.05 dynes/cm.
5. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 wherein said synthetic polyisobutylene sulfonate has a molecular weight from about 200 to about 900 g/mole.
6. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 wherein said synthetic polyisobutylene sulfonate  
20 has a molecular weight from about 250 to about 600 g/mole.
7. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 wherein said surfactant blend further comprises at least one alkyl-benzene sulfonate.
8. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 wherein said surfactant blend further comprises at least one dodecyl benzene sulfonate.
- 25 9. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 wherein said fluid comprises from about 0.01% to about 20% by weight of said surfactant blend.

10% to about 40% by weight synthetic polyisobutylene surfactant.

11. The aqueous fluid of Claim 9 wherein said surfactant blend comprises from about 5% to about 30% by weight of at least one alkyl benzene sulfonate surfactant
12. The aqueous fluid of Claim 9 wherein said surfactant blend further comprises an alcohol at a concentration from about 2% to about 20% by weight of the surfactant blend.
13. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 wherein said surfactant blend further comprises at least one alcohol and at least one alkyl benzene sulfonate.
14. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 further comprising from about 0.01% to about 2% by weight of at least one alkaline material.
15. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 further comprising from about 0.01% to about 0.75% by weight of at least one alkaline material.
16. The composition of Claim 1 further comprising a water soluble polymeric viscosifier.
- 15 17. The aqueous fluid of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous fluid has improved stability of greater than 24 hours without precipitation.
18. A method of recovering oil from a subterranean reservoir penetrated by a well bore by:
  - a) providing an aqueous fluid into said reservoir said fluid comprising at least one polyisobutylene sulfonate surfactant; and
  - b) contacting said oil with said aqueous fluid;whereby the interfacial tension between said aqueous fluid and said oil is effectively lowered.
19. The method of Claim 18 wherein said surfactant blend further comprises at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of sulfonate surfactants.

20. The method of Claim 18 wherein said aqueous fluid further comprises at least one alkaline material.
21. The method of Claim 18 wherein said aqueous fluid further comprises at least one water soluble polymeric thickener.
- 5 22. The method of Claim 18 wherein said alkaline material is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulfate and mixtures thereof.
23. The method of Claim 18 wherein said tertiary oil recovery is 10% or more of the original oil in place.